30.

Maſter Rigb'ys *Lanc.*

SPEECH

IN

Anſwer to the Lord FINCH, of that he delivered before the Houſe of Commons, in behalf of himſelf.

With a

CONSPIRACIE DISCOVERED:

OR,

The Report of a COMMITTEE to the Houſe of Commons in Parliament, of the Examination of divers of the *Conſpiratars*, and others in the late Treaſon, *June* the 17th. 1641.

1. *Concerning the Tower.*
2. *Wherein the French are concerned in this Conſpiracy.*
3. *Of provoking the Army againſt the Parliament by falſe Reports.*

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Master *RIGBIES* answer TO THE LORD KEEPERS SPEECH, in the House of COMMONS, 1640.

Mr Speaker.

MY Judgement prompts me to sit still, and to be silent, yet the duty I owe to my King, my Country, and my Conscience, moves me to stand up and speak. Master Speaker, had not this Siren had so sweet a tongue, surely he could never have effected so much mischief to this Kingdome: you know Sir, *optimorum putrefacta pessima*, the best things putrified, become the worst; and as it is so in the naturall, so it is in the body politick; and what's to be done then, Mr Speaker, we all know, *Ense recidendum est*, the Sword (Justice) must strike, *ne pars sincera trahatur*: M. Speaker, tis not the voice, *non vox, sed votum*, not the tongue, but the heart and actions, that are to be inspected, for doth not our Saviour Christ say it? *Shew me thy faith by thy works, O man*: Now Master Speaker, hath not this Kingdome seen, (seen say I) nay felt, and smarted under the cruelty of this mans injustice? so malici-

ous, as to record it in every Court of *Westminster*, as if he had not been contented too with the inflaming of us all, unless he entail it to all posterity. Why shall I believe words now? *Cum factum videam*: Shall we be so weak men, that when we have been injured and abused, will be gained again with fair words and complemenrs? Or like little children, that when we have been beaten and whipt, be pleased again with sweet Meats? O no, there be some Birds that in the Summer of a Parliament, will sing sweetly, who in the Winter of Persecution, will, for their prey, ravenously fly at all, upon our goods, nay seize upon our persons, and hath it not been by this man, so by some in this Assembly.

Master Speaker, it hath been objected unto us, that in Judgement we should think of mercy, and *be you mercifull, as your heavenly Father is mercifull*; Now God grant that we may be so, and that our hearts and judgements may be rightly rectified, to know truly what is mercy, I say, to know what is mercy, for there is the point, Master Speaker: I have heard of foolish pitie, foolish pitie, do we not all know the effects of it? and I have met with this Epithite to mercy, *crudelis misericordia*, and in some kind I think there may be a cruell mercie; I am sure that the Spirit of God sayes, *be ye not pitifull in Iudgement*; nay, it saith, *be not pitifull of the poore in Iudgement*: if not of the poor, then *a fortiori*, not of the rich, there's the Emphasis, we see, by the set and solemn appointments of our Courts of Justice, what provision the wisdome of our Ancestors hath made for the preservation, honour,

nour, and esteeme of Iustice; witnesse those frequent Terms, Sessions, and Assises, and in what pomp and state the Iudges in the circuits by the Sheriffs, knights, and Iustices, and all the Country are attended oft times for the hanging of a poor thief, for the stealing of a hogg or a sheep, nay in some cases, for the stealing of a penny, & iustly or *in terrorem*, and now shall not some of them be hanged, that have rob'd us of all our propriety, and stricken at once all our sheep, and all we have away, & would have made us all indeed a poor *Belisarius*, to have begged for a half-penny, when they would not have left us one penny as we could have called our own.

Let us therefore, M. Speaker, not be so pittifull, as that we become remisse, nor so pittifull in judgment as to have no iudgement, but let the deplorable estate of Great *Britaine* now before us, and consider how our most gracious Soveraigne hath been abused, and both his Majesty and all his subiects injured by these wicked instruments, for which my humble motion is, that in these particulars we become not so mercifull, as to the generall (the whole Kingdome) we may grow mercilesse.

Fiat Iustitia.

FINIS.

A CONSPIRACIE DISCOVERED:

OR,

The Report of the *Committee* to the House of COMMONS in PARLIAMENT, of the Examination of divers of the *Conspirators* and others in the late Treason, *June* the 17th, 1641.

MR. FYNES made Report to the House of COMMONS of three Heads.

1. *Concerning the Tower.*

2. *Wherein the French are concerned in the conspiracie.*

3. *Of provoking the Army against the Parliament by false Reports.*

Captaine *Billingsleyes* Examination was reported by Mr. *Hambden*, who sayes, he had no hand in the Conspiracie, onely that Sir *John Suckling* invited him to the employment in the Army.

Also,

Alſo, one *Nuts Examination* reported, who depoſed that the Earle of *Straffords* eſcape was practiſed.

Then the Lievtenant of the Towers *Examination* was reported, who ſayes cleerly, that the Earle of *Straffard* endeavoured an eſcape, promiſing 20000 l. to marry his Son to his Daughter, and to have made her one of the greateſt Marriages in the Kingdome.

Concerning the Army, Lieutenant Colonell *Ballads Examination* was reported by Sir *Philip Stapleton*, which ſhews, that Captain *Chidley* had brought downto the Army many inſtructions.

And that Colonell *Goring* ſhould be Lieutenant Generall of the Army, and the Prince, and the Lord of *Newcaſtle* to meet them in *Nottinghamſhire*, with one thouſand Horſe.

All which propoſitions came from Maſter *Henry Iermin*, and were diſperſed by Serjeant Major *Wallis* and Captain *Chidley*.

Serjeant Major *Wallis* upon his Examination, ſayes, that the French would aſſiſt them, and the Clergie would at their own charge, ſend 1000 horſe.

Colonell *Goring* upon his Examination, ſayes, he was tyed up by an Oath of ſecrecy, and therefore durſt not anſwer to all the Interrogatories, which Oath he ſaith was given him by Mr. *Piercy* in his Chamber at White-Hall, in preſence of Mr. *Wilmot*, Colonell *Aſhburnham*, Captaine *Pollard*, and others, who ſaid, they had all of them taken this Oath, and that he was the laſt of the company that was to take it.

Miſtreſſe

Mistresse *Plumwell*, sayes that a French man, a Servant to the *Queen*, brought Armes to her house, and desired her to keep them, for that the house of Commons had made an order, that no Papists should have Armes in their custody, and then fetched them back again, about the time the Earle of *Strafford* escape was practised.

There was also a report of a Letter from Mr. *Iermin* to Mr. *Mountague*, which was intercepted, wherein he writ, that he hoped that the horse Leeches would be starved for want of food.

Also, of another Letter from Mr. *Mountague* to Master *Iermin*, which shewed, they expected the Lord of *Strafford* shortly with them.

Also, Mr. *Bland* upon his Examination, saith, that Mr. *Iermin* much endevaoured to get *Portsmouth* into his hands.

And that there was two Letters from one *Roberts* a Priest to the Bishop of *Chalcedon*, in recommendation of two *English Priests*.

FINIS.